Public Notice

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence

Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No.
P-2676
Public Notice Date
May 27 2008
Expiration Date
June 16 2008

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Comments on the activities described below should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (Charles Frerker)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. AmerenIP/Ameren Transco, c/o: Mr. Rick Trelz, 370 South Main Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523 (217-424-7511) has applied:

a. To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Regulatory Branch for authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to construct approximately 30.2 miles of new 345kV transmission line. The project, known as the "Baldwin-Rush Island Line" would extend from AmerenIP's Baldwin Switchyard near Baldwin, Illinois, to AmerenUE's Rush Island Power Plant, located along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximate river mile 140, directly across from Fults, Illinois. The line would have a 150-feet-wide right-of-way (ROW), and would cross Randolph and Monroe Counties, Illinois, and Jefferson County, Missouri. The project area consists primarily of agricultural lands, with wetlands and forested riparian areas along perennial and intermittent rivers and streams, including the Mississippi River, Kaskaskia River, Horse Creek, Dry Fork, Fults Creek, Maeystown Creek and Old Maeystown Creek.

The transmission line is necessary for AmerenIP to provide adequate, reliable and efficient service to its customers as part of the network upgrades required to enable the interconnection customer, Prairie State, to reliably deliver capacity and energy to the bulk electric system at the least cost. Pursuant to Federal Energy Commission (FERC) Order 888, AmerenIP is obligated to fulfill generation interconnection requests in a nondiscriminatory manner and in compliance with NERC Reliability Standards and FERC filed Ameren Transmission Planning and Guidelines. The proposed project would allow interconnection of the Prairie State generation facility in a safe and reliable manner, and would provide for reliable delivery into the Midwest Independent Transmission System, Inc., energy market. AmerenIP studied a number of alternative transmission line routes considering reliability, cost, avoidance and minimization to human and natural environment, including wetlands and waters of the United States. The proposed Baldwin-Rush Island Line was selected as the best alternative route.

The transmission line would be a single circuit 345kV electric transmission line and consist of single shaft steel poles typically ranging from 95 to 125 feet in height. The Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers will be spanned. The Kaskaskia River crossing would require a single pole structure of approximately 135 to 150 feet. Poles would require steel-reinforced concrete foundations cast in place, and would vary from approximately 6-feet in diameter for tangent pole structures to 12-feet in diameter for angle or dead-end pole structures. Temporary work areas for each structure

would require 17,000 square feet for tangents and 60,000 square feet for angle and dead end structures. The Kaskaskia River and Mississippi bluffs crossing would require 90,000 square feet of temporary work area. Steel lattice towers would be used to cross the Mississippi River and would require a height of 320 to 400 feet. Foundations for each of the four lattice tower legs would be approximately 10 feet by 10 feet. Temporary work areas for each lattice structure would require 23,000 to 30,000 square feet. Lattice towers located within the Mississippi River floodplain would be designed to minimize catching flood debris to prevent flow obstruction and scouring during flood flows. The structures were sited to avoid impacts to wetlands; however, two steel poles and four lattice towers along the route are located within wetlands. One single pole structure is located in a wooded wetland on the west side of the Kaskaskia River and the other is located in a wooded wetland in the Mississippi bluff. Two lattice towers are located in wooded wetlands on the east side of the Mississippi River and the other two are located in wooded wetland on the west side of the Mississippi River in Missouri. These structures and associated work areas would result in a total of 3.22 acres of permanent wooded wetland impacts; 1.53 acres in Illinois and 1.69 acres in Missouri, and 0.13 acre of temporary impacts to emergent wetlands.

Existing roads would be utilized to the greatest extent possible to avoid and minimize ground disturbance. New temporary access roads would be required for some construction, impacting a total of 0.64 acre of wooded wetlands and 0.42 acre of temporary impacts to emergent and farmed wetlands and intermittent and ephemeral streams. The roads would be 16-feet-wide and would require installation of gravel fill in areas that are impassable. Following construction, temporary gravel would be removed from the wetlands to upland areas and the affected area returned to pre-construction elevations. If gravel is required for roads in the Mississippi River floodplain, it would not be removed upon completion of construction in order to maintain access to structures for maintenance. Stream and emergent crossings would be revegetated with appropriate vegetation; however, wooded wetland crossings would not be revegetated with trees in order to maintain adequate clearance for overhead conductors. Therefore, wooded wetland crossings are considered permanent impacts because there is a permanent change in the plant community. However, there will be minimal disturbance to the soils and/or hydrology and the site should remain as a jurisdictional wetland. Vegetation clearing will be minimized along the banks of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers and other waterways to prevent erosion. Vegetation clearing would be done in a manner as not to disturb the root structure of existing vegetation. Trees in the ROW would be cut manually with no uprooting of stumps with mechanized equipment. Cut trees would be hauled out of wetlands to land above the high water elevation.

The overall project would permanently impact 3.86 acres of wooded wetlands; 1.82 acres in Illinois and 2.04 acres in Missouri. Approximately 0.55 acre of temporary impacts to ephemeral and intermittent waterways and emergent and farmed wetlands would occur in Illinois. The applicant would be required to conduct wooded wetland mitigation in both Illinois and Missouri to compensate for impacts on a 3:1 replacement ratio for a total of 11.58 acres of created wooded wetlands. In addition, the project would result in permanent loss of wooded riparian areas crossed by the transmission line due to ROW clearing requirements. The line crosses a total of 48 intermittent and perennial streams and rivers. Mitigation requirements for the impacted riparian corridors are based on an average 25-feet-wide riparian corridor (25 feet on each side of channel) and the 150-feet-wide ROW, totaling 348,750 square feet or 8 acres. Ameren proposes to construct 11.58 acres of wooded wetland mitigation areas and 8 acres of wooded riparian mitigation areas within the impacted project watersheds in Illinois and Missouri. The specific mitigation area locations and mitigation plans have not been finalized; however these details shall be reviewed and approved by the St. Louis District Regulatory Branch before the permit could be authorized. (See Attached Figures for Additional Project Details)

b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this

proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 11 of this public notice for Corps address).

c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval of the proposed work in accordance with "an Act in relation to the regulation of the rivers, lakes and streams of the State of Illinois" (Ill. Rev. Stat.; Chap. 19, par 52 et seq.). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, Illinois, 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

d. To the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers

2. Based on our initial processing of the applicants' proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.

3. This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

4. The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

5. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

6. The proposed project is within range of the following federally endangered and threatened species: Indiana bat (***Myotis sodalis***), gray bat (**Myotis gricescens**), decurrent false aster (**Boltoniea decurrens**), Illinois cave amphipod (**Gammarus acherondytes**), pallid sturgeon (**Scaphirhynchuc albus**), least tern (**Sterna antillarum**), pink mucket pearly mussel (**Lampsilis abrupta**), scaleshell mussel (**Leptodea leptodon**), spectaclecase (**Cumberlandia monodonta**) and the sheepnose mussel (**Plethobasus cyphus**). Ameren requested and was granted permission from the St. Louis District Regulatory Branch to conduct informal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for this project. Ameren prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) with coordination and assistance from the FWS. Ameren's BA concludes the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the following species: Illinois cave amphipod (**Gammarus acherondytes**), pallid sturgeon (**Scaphirhynchuc albus**), least tern (**Sterna antillarum**), Indiana bat (***Myotis sodalis***), and gray bat (**Myotis gricescens**). Ameren's BA also concludes the proposed activity will have no effect on the following species: pink mucket pearly mussel (**Lampsilis abrupta**), scaleshell mussel (**Leptodea leptodon**), spectaclecase (**Cumberlandia monodonta**) sheepnose mussel (**Plethobasus cyphus**) and decurrent false aster (**Boltoniea decurrens**). The BA concludes the proposed project would not likely adversely affect or have no effect on threatened or endangered species due to implementation of conservation

measures, species biology, and species distribution that would collectively reduce impacts to discountable levels. The St. Louis District Regulatory Branch will consult the final results of Ameren's BA with the FWS, concurrently with this public notice.

7. Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before the public notice expiration date. The decision whether to authorize the proposed work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Project authorization will be granted only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.

8. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

9. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Frerker), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to *charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil*, on or before the public notice expiration date.

10. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

Robert A Sramke

Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 21 days.

Enclosure 2

Project Vicinity Map (West)

Ameren IP
Baldwin-Rush Island
Transmission Line

Legend

- Proposed Route
- Existing Transmission Line
- Substation

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W E
S

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Miles

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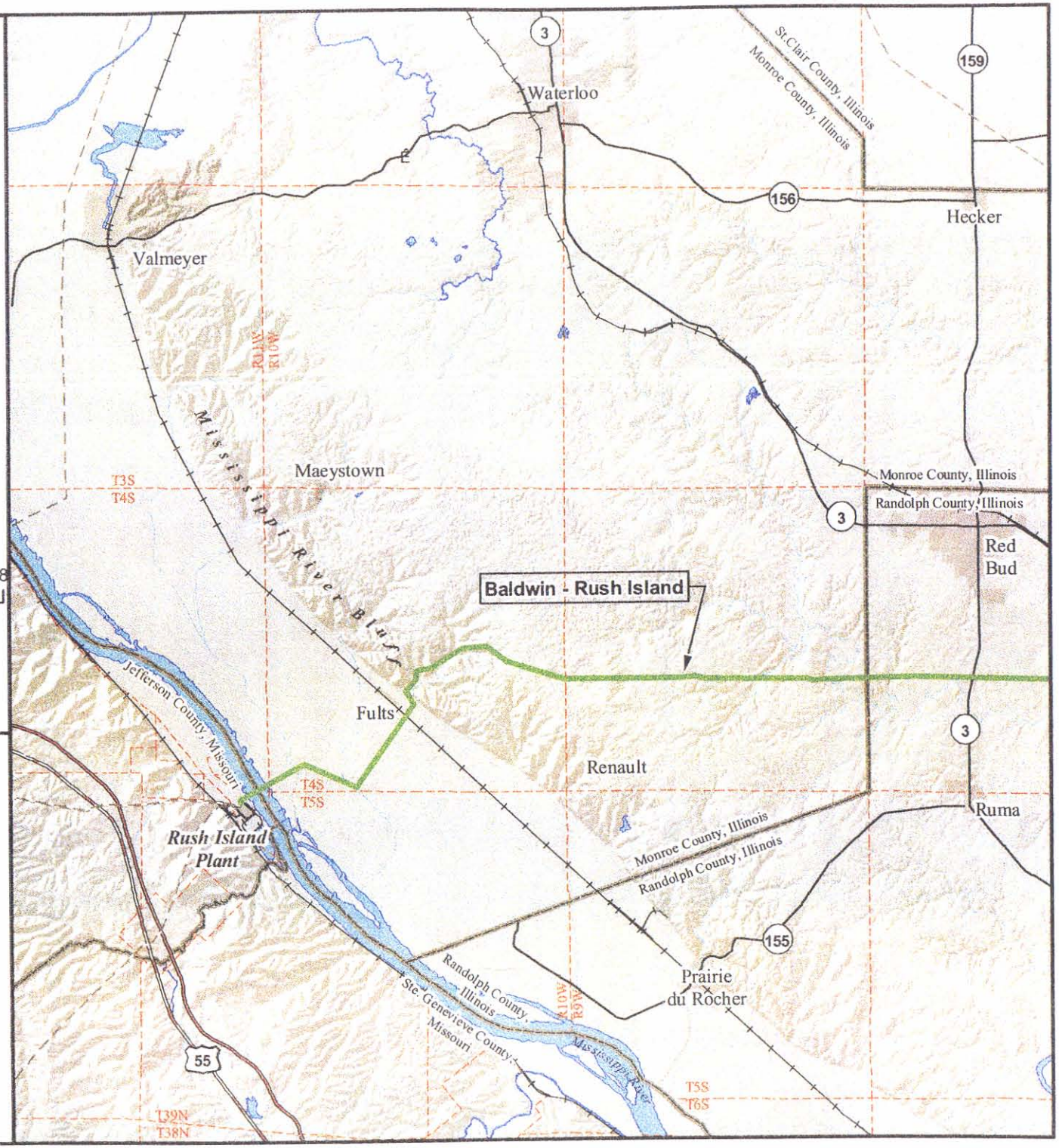
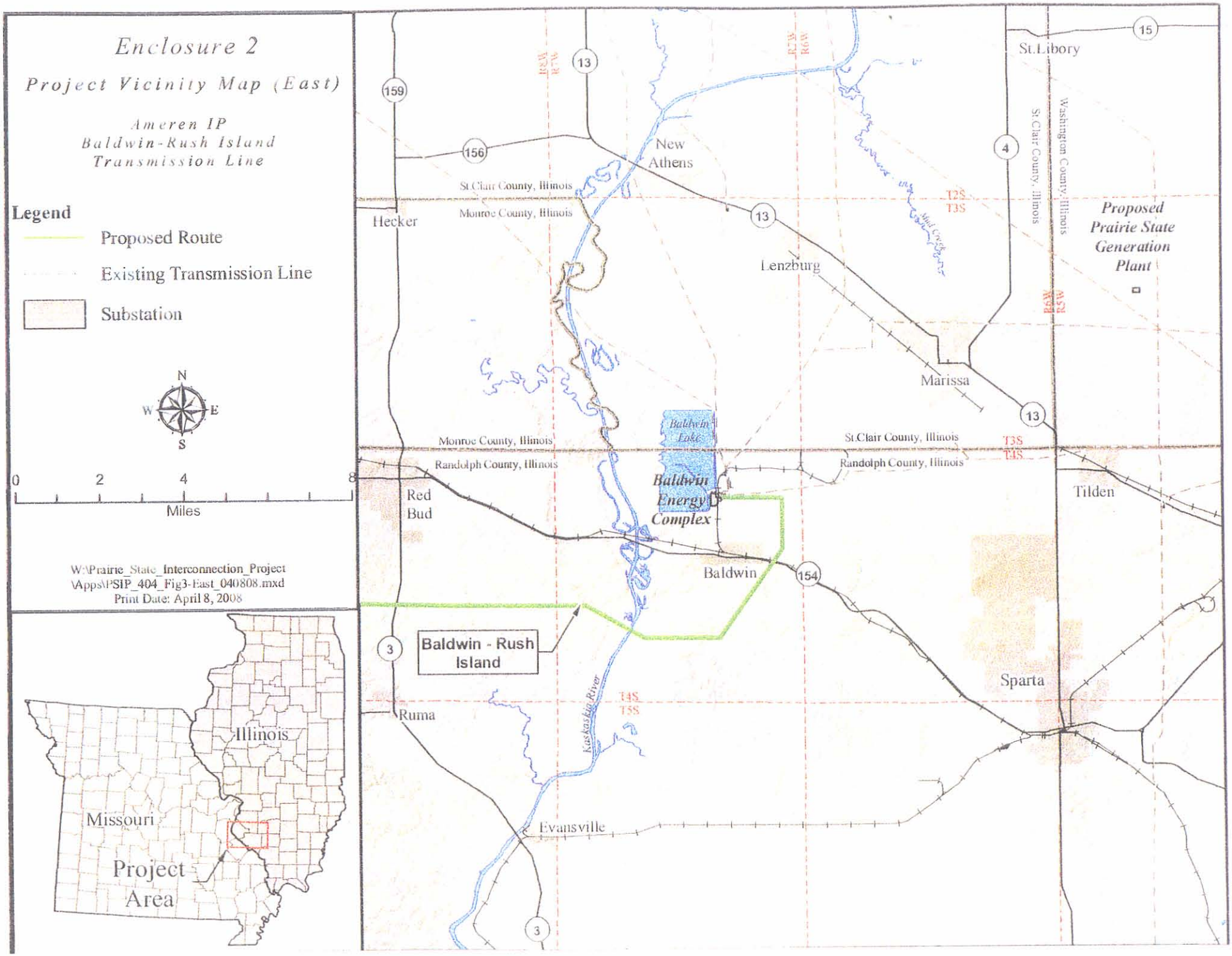
Print Date: April 8, 2008




Enclosure 2
Project Vicinity Map (East)
Ameren IP
Baldwin-Rush Island
Transmission Line
Legend
Proposed Route
Existing Transmission Line
Substation
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Proposed
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Generation
Plant
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Athens
Hecker
Lenzburg
Marissa
St.Libory
Red
Bud
Tilden
Sparta
Ruma
Evansville
St.Clair County, Illinois
Monroe County, Illinois
Randolph County, Illinois
Washington County, Illinois
Kaskaskia River
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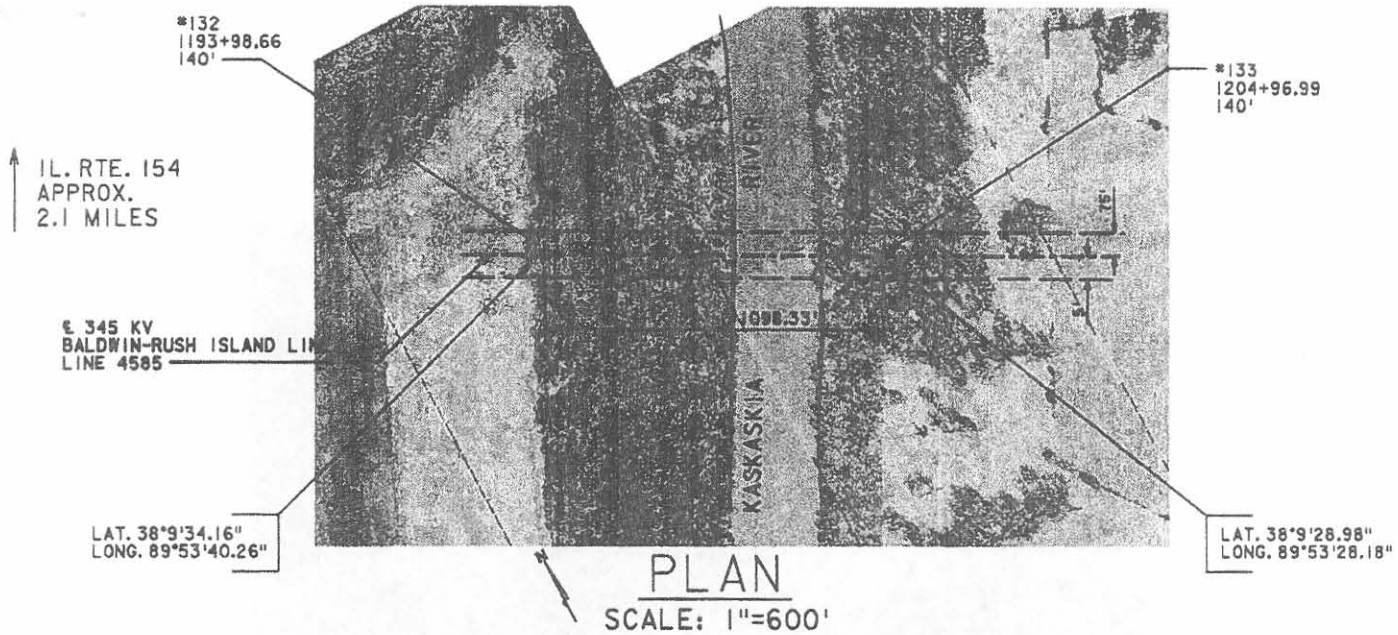
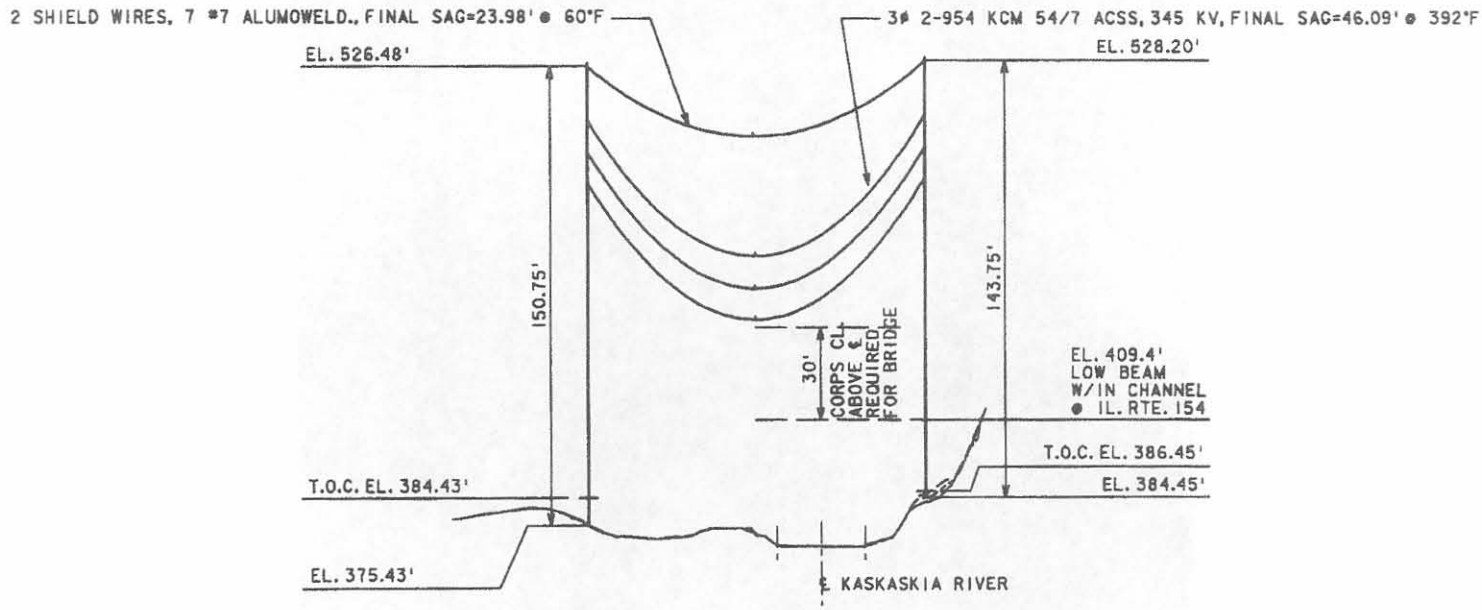


PLAN

SCALE: 1"=600'



PROFILE

SCALE:
HORIZONTAL: 1"=600'
VERTICAL: 1"=60'

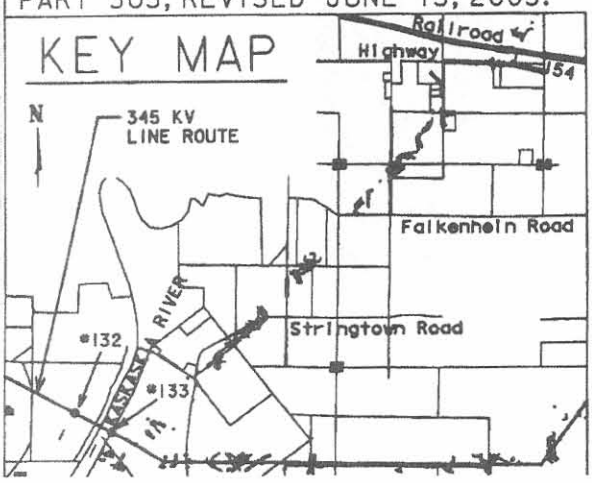
ENCL 4

THIS CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1983 ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PART 305, REVISED JUNE 15, 2003.

LEGEND

○ NEW STRUCTURE

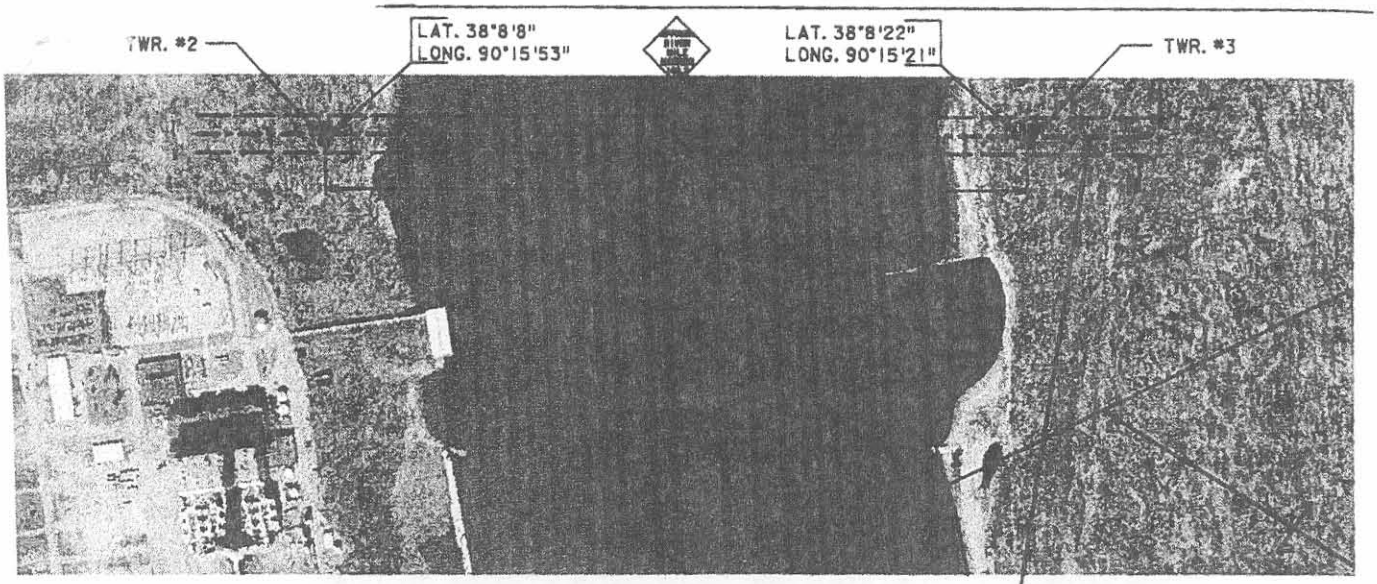
KEY MAP



RANDOLPH COUNTY
EVANSVILLE TOWNSHIP
SECTION 29
T. 4 S.
R. 7 W.
3RD P.M.

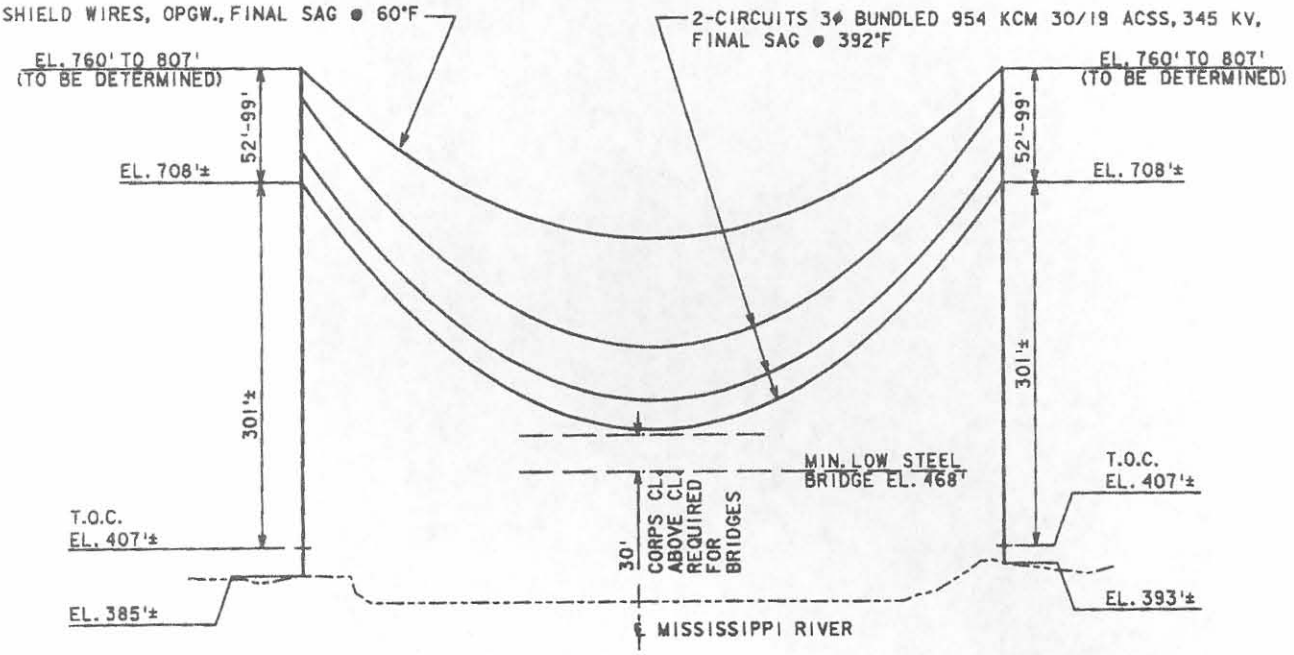
NOTE:
ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET & REFER TO MEAN SEA LEVEL.

PROPOSED OVERHEAD WIRE CROSSING
OVER
KASKASKIA RIVER
IN
RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS
APPLICATION BY
AMEREN IP/AMEREN TRANSCO
APRIL, 2008
CORPS PERMIT-1 12021



PLAN

SCALE: 1"=800'



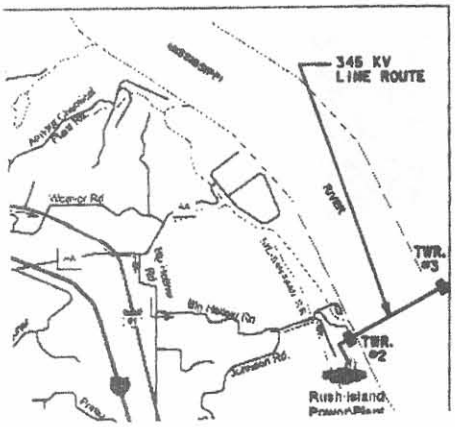
PROFILE

SCALE:
HORIZONTAL: 1"=800'
VERTICAL: 1"=160'

LEGEND

▮ NEW STRUCTURE

ENCL 4



JEFFERSON COUNTY, MO
FESTUS TOWNSHIP
SECTION 5
T. 39 N.
R. 7 E.

MONROE COUNTY, IL
SECTION 36
T. 4 S.
R. 11 W.

NOTE:
ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET & REFER TO MEAN SEA LEVEL.

PROPOSED OVERHEAD WIRE CROSSING OVER MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI & MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS APPLICATION BY

AMEREN UE/AMEREN IP/AMER